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a rear layer for carrying the structure;
a front layer covered by a two-dimensional pattern rendering the simulated object visually detectable; and
an intermediate layer overlapping with at least a portion of the front layer, said intermediate layer being capable of emitting infrared radiation featuring a thermal signature cue of the object;
wherein said front layer is made of a mesh-containing material which permits infrared radiation to pass therethrough and thereby render said thermal signature cue detectable and recognizable in darkened conditions using IR sighting equipment while preserving the ability to recognize the simulated object in visible light.

15. (New) The target device as defined in claim 14, in which said front layer is made of supple meshed fabric.

16. (New) The target device as defined in claim 14, in which said mesh are configured as substantially elliptical holes.

17. (New) The target device as defined in claim 15, in which said meshed fabric is made of knitted polyester.

18. (New) The target device as defined in claim 14, in which said rear layer is made of high-density polyethylene.

19. (New) The target device, as defined in claim 14, in which said intermediate layers made of a polyester sheet coated by a low emissivity thermal coating, capable of producing infrared radiation with intensity, which is lower, than the intensity of the infrared radiation irradiated by those portions of the front layer, which are not in the overlapping relationship with the intermediate layer.

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Concluded*

20. (New) The target device, as defined in claim 19, in which said thermal coating is defined by heat reflection of about 0.7 and emissivity of about 0.3.

21. (New) The target device, as defined in claim 14, in which said layers are attached to each other in side-by-side relationship and are joined by sewn stitches.

22 (New) The target device as defined in claim 21, further including fastening means suitable for securing the target on a support structure.

23. (New) The target device, as defined in claim 14, wherein said front intermediate and rear layers are made of polymeric material joined to form a unitary structure; said front layer comprising a polyester or polyethylene fabric with a plurality of substantially elliptically shaped holes;

said intermediate layer comprising a polyester sheet having at least one surface coated with a low emissivity thermal coating formed of a plurality of metallic layers interspersed with polyester; and

said rear layer comprising a strong lightweight, net-like polymeric material having sufficient strength to carry the superposed layers and which does not absorb water.

24. (New) The target device, as defined in claim 21, wherein said intermediate layer comprises a plurality of aluminum layers, the emissivity of each layer being about 0.04-0.05, the top aluminum layer being coated with a low emissivity material.--

25. (New) The target device of claim 24, wherein said thickness of said intermediate layer is about 24 microns and said low emissivity material is a lacquer.

R E M A R K S

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to make clarifying revisions to the claims in accordance with U.S. practice. No narrowing of the claims scope is intended.